Chapter 2 Community Cluster Input

The following are the collective input to the questions asked at the Community Cluster Committee meetings.

2.1 Community Cluster 1—North

Question 1. What do you consider to be the most significant factor(s) that make the City of Long Beach a desirable place to live, work, and play?

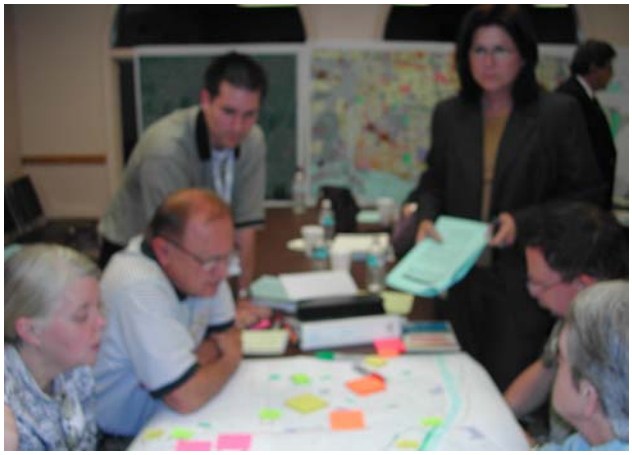
Land Use/Location
- Central regional location (LA/OC)
- Beach/Ocean/Coast location*
- Proximity to local/regional activities

Residential/Housing
- Housing Diversity
- Condition of Housing
- Affordable Beach Community

Commerce/Employment
- New Development
- Businesses
- Variety of restaurants
- Large/regional commercial centers
- Job Opportunities

Transportation/Mobility
- Less traffic/congestion than LA
- Freeway Access

* More than one Committee member.



Environment

- Quality of the Environment
- Climate*

Community Character/Culture

- Stable single-family neighborhood
- Historic character
- Diversity of people & cultures*
- Diversity of leisure/cultural activities/Recreation*
- Performing arts venues
- Variety of Neighborhoods
- Small town neighborhood feel*
- Historic Landmarks*
- Affordable Beach Community

Public Services

- Public Transportation Systems*
- Schools*
- After-school programs

Question 2. What do you consider to be the most significant factor(s) that make your neighborhood (or Community Cluster) a desirable place to live, work, or do business?

Land Use/Location

- Developable Sites on Westside
- Proximity to LB Downtown*
- Close to jobs and shopping
- Easy access to LA Basin
- Proximity to transit and freeways
- Close to schools

Residential/Housing

- Mobile Home Park
- Single-family Homes*
- Affordable Housing
- Low-cost rents
- Well-maintained homes

Commerce/Employment

- Shopping Centers

* More than one respondent had the same response.

Transportation/Mobility
- Can walk to shopping and services

Community Character/Culture
- Historic Homes
- Cultural/Ethnic Diversity*
- Trees
- Neighborhoods*
- Peacefulness/Quiet
- Involvement/Commitment
- Good people w/good intentions
- Small Town Friendliness
- Neighborly Concern

Public Services
- Public transit
- Good Schools*
- Police protection / Relatively Safe
- LA River Trail

Miscellaneous
- Building Restrictions

Parks/Recreation
- Excellent Parks*
- Houghton Park
- North branch library
- Clean neighborhoods (except by freeway)

Question 3. What do you consider to be the most significant issues or problems that threaten the qualities that make your neighborhood (or Community Cluster) a desirable place to live or work (if any)?

Land Use/Location
- Residential density too high in areas
- Port Expansion
- Undesirable uses (liquor stores, fast food, adult bookstores, auto repair)
- Lack of shopping

Residential/Housing
- Parking in yards
- Density of some apartments
- Poor maintenance in some areas
- Noisy apts. next to single-family
- Aging housing stock
- Overcrowding in apartments
- No affordable rents
- Homeless families

Commerce/Employment
- Amount of vacant commercial space
- Poor environment on Atlantic
- Maintenance of vacant buildings
- Limited economic activity (west of the I-710)
- Inadequate employment opportunities
- Lack of professional businesses (doctors, dentists, lawyers)
- Ugly business signs
- Junky store fronts
- Lack of quality banks
- Lack of quality supermarket
- Lack of quality service station
- Lack of quality drug store
- Lack of quality video store
- Lack of good paying jobs

* More than one respondent had the same response.

Parks/Recreation
- Inadequate Open Space areas
- Not enough play areas for teens
- Lack of youth programs

Transportation/Mobility
- Freeway traffic
- High roadway speeds
- Street surfaces need repair
- Lack of parking

Environment
- Airport noise/air quality*
- Freeway Noise/Air Pollution

Community Character/Culture
- Some apts. out of scale w/SFR
- Lack of programs and activities for adults

Public Services
- Gang Activity
- Crime
- Trash/Debris
- Trash dumping (at De Forest)
- Street Racing
- Lack of Social Services
- Poor quality schools
- Inadequate funding for schools

Miscellaneous
- Absentee Landlords/Slumlords
- Youth problems
- Insufficient staff for code-enforcement
- Increasing spread of industrial uses into residential areas
- Out of town owners
- No sense of community
- Graffiti
- No investment in the less fortunate

Question 4. Are there any places in your Community Cluster that you visit on a regular basis to interact with your neighbors and consider to function as your "downtown"—or, a central point for community activities and events, socialization, entertainment, and other activities? If so, what are these locations and what makes them function in this role? Do they foster pedestrian activity?

- Atlantic Ave. in Bixby Knolls*
- Trader Joe's
- Concerts in the Parks
- Los Cerritos Park
- Block Parties
- Pacific Ave. Shopping
- River Bikepath
- Jan's Antiques (Neigh. Meetings)
- Houghton Park*
- PAC—Citizens' Redevelopment Advisory Committee meeting
- SuperMex Restaurant
- Toyota Industrial Building
- Hobo Café*
- El Ranchito
- YMCA
- Coolidge Park
- Houghton Park
- El Ranchito Restaurant
- Bixby Knolls Businesses
- TABC—Toyota subsidiary that hosts community meetings
- After-school programs
- Long Beach City College

* More than one respondent had the same response.

Question 5. What important land uses are missing in your neighborhood or Community Cluster that you believe should be encouraged to develop there in the future? (businesses, employment, parks, community facilities, etc.).

Residential/Housing
- Low-density single-family homes
- Mixed use (but not for seniors)

Commerce/Employment
- Pedestrian-friendly Business District*
- Department Store
- Major Shopping Center
- Electronics Store (e.g. Radio Shack)
- Big Box Retail (e.g. Costco)
- Neighborhood-serving retail
- Banks
- Grocery Stores with bank and drug store on Westside*
- Upscale Restaurants
- Outdoor Dining
- Fast Food Chains
- Coffee Houses*
- Employment
- Job creating businesses

Parks/Recreation
- Access to LA River/Green Space
- Parks in Wrigley
- More Parks in general*

Character/Culture
- Theaters and Entertainment*
- Cultural Events
- Art venues
- Dance clubs

Public Services
- Community/Neighborhood Center*
- Senior Center
- Code/zoning Enforcement
- Educational opportunities
- Spanish Community Center
- Classes in/for Khmer language

Miscellaneous
- Child-friendly Places
- Affordable parking on Pine Ave
- Touch of Class and entertainment*

* More than one respondent had the same response.

Question 6. Are there any uses or areas that should be redeveloped or significantly improved over time? If so, what are the key problems with these areas or uses?

Land Use/Location

- Atlantic Avenue / Needs upgrading, recycle the adult bookstore

Residential/Housing

- Atlantic Avenue / Long Beach Boulevard—Apartment density.
- Long Beach Boulevard / Vacant buildings; repave and include medians; remove diesel stations because they create traffic problems
- Carmelitos and surrounding areas / High apartment cost for low-income families
- Three-story apartments not working
- Substandard housing Dilapidated apartment buildings
- Single story residential (in converted commercial) on the corridors

Commerce/Employment

- Artesia Blvd.
- Market St. and Artesia Blvd. / Need façade upgrades and code enforcement
- 55th Street at Linden Ave and others / Remove corner liquor stores
- All major commercial corridors and adjacent residential
- Obispo Industrial (interface with commercial and residential areas)

Parks/Recreation

- Long Beach Blvd. At Greenleaf / Use Edison power line area for soccer fields
- Pocket park at Market Street/Dairy Avenue
- Need government-funded programs to keep teens and children off the street

Transportation

- Major intersections / Need more consistent look; compatible uses; remove blight

Environment

- Area along the Los Angeles River

Public Services

- Areas with closed/vacant businesses (attract trash and other problems)*

Miscellaneous

- South Street from Paramount Blvd. to Atlantic Avenue
- Cherry Avenue between South Street and Market Street
- Artesia Blvd. between Long Beach Blvd. to Cherry Avenue
- South Street—entire length
- Community Redevelopment Block Grant areas
- Long Beach Blvd., Atlantic Ave., Market St., South St., Del Amo Blvd
- Area north of the 91 Freeway
- North Long Beach and downtown
- Cherry Avenue /Artesia Blvd. to Del Amo Blvd./Long Beach Blvd.
- Orange Avenue and Artesia Blvd.
- Artesia Blvd. At Long Beach Blvd.

* More than one respondent had the same response.

Question 7. How would you like to see your neighborhood or Community Cluster change in the future? (Prompts—"keep it as it is," "improve its appearance," "develop grocery stores," etc.).

Residential/Housing
- Less dense housing on major streets
- Increased owner occupancy
- Rehabilitation of aging units
- Lower rents

Commerce/Employment
- Upgraded business signage
- Commercial design guidelines*
- Small businesses rather than chains*
- Renovate rundown businesses
- No oversaturation of business types
- Code enforcement (zoning and bldg.)
- Enforce business licenses
- Lively/active businesses with parking
- No thrift/99 cent stores
- Fewer bars/liquor stores
- Need major grocery stores*
- Book stores
- Provide better shopping and services
- Need major retail stores
- Movie theaters*
- Improve social opportunities

Parks/Recreation
- Clean and Green*
- More green space
- Athletic facilities
- Add recreation opportunities

Transportation
- Wider sidewalks on Atlantic Ave.
- Pedestrian-friendly streets
- Improved intersection appearance
- Improve streets in neighborhoods Clean up main corridors*
- Divert I-710 Truck Traffic
- City accessibility
- Slow neighborhood traffic

Character/Culture
- Improve streets—streetscape
- Upgraded building facades
- Median Landscape
- No graffiti
- Remove bars from windows
- Cleaner main streets cleaner
- Keep/improve neighborhood identity
- Beautify vacant lots
- Tree planting*

Public Services
- Underground utilities
- Night-time lighting
- Tree Maintenance/Replacement
- Keep roadways clean
- Trash pick-up
- Daily trash cleaning at bus stops
- New library
- Need general center for identification
- Add community centers*
- Atlantic Theater/community center
- More/better youth programs
- More after-school programs

* More than one respondent had the same response.

- Contributing/active community
- More city services
- Safe night-life

Miscellaneous
- No Port Expansion
- Civic responsibility from North LB
- Community pride
- Smaller/manageable council districts
- More neighborhood assoc. meetings

Question 8. Write a maximum of five words or short phrases that best describe your vision about what your neighborhood or Community Cluster should be in the future.

Residential/Housing
- Lower rent
- Less homeless families

Commerce/Employment
- Economic Hub—Bixby Knolls
- Belmont Store NLB Style

Parks/Recreation
- Golf course
- More parks for organized sports

Character/Culture
- Clean streets
- Clean
- Beautify empty lots
- Landscaped roadways*
- Beautification Pride*
- Recognized
- Tact/Class
- Clean environment*
- Creative
- Safe*/ livable reputation
- Friendly, open, green
- A large park
- A major city facility
- Desirable place to live

Public Services
- More streetlights
- Community Center
- Senior Center
- Support services
- After-school programs
- Upgraded streets
- Adequate services

Miscellaneous
- Committee to beautify the City
- No gang violence
- Neighborhood associations

* More than one respondent had the same response.

Question 9. Are there any locations in the Community Cluster where you regularly experience traffic congestion? List specific segments, intersections, or interchanges. Describe the nature of these problems (use single words, or short phrases).

- Atlantic at Artesia / Freeway entry and exit ramps
- Long Beach Blvd. at E. 56th Street / Lots of turns against light
- Orange Avenue / Traffic congestion from addition of bicycle lane
- 56th Street between South and Market Streets / No left turn from 3–6 p.m.
- Market Street at Long Beach Blvd. / Pedestrians
- Long Beach Blvd./ Too many trucks between 7–9 a.m. and 2–5 p.m.
- Atlantic Blvd. at Artesia Blvd. / Needs crossing bridge for Jordan High School
- Del Amo Blvd. at Long Beach Blvd./ Traffic congestion to Atlantic Ave.
- 710 Freeway / Truck traffic
- Atlantic Avenue / Uncontrolled cross streets
- Willow and Santa Fe and 47 Freeway •East–West Streets—Truck Parking
- PCH, Wardlow, Willow—Traffic congestion
- Hughes, Longfellow, St. Barnabas—Schools
- Magnolia/PCH
- Freeways
- Long Beach Freeway
- Atlantic Avenue at Artesia
- Atlantic Avenue at Del Amo
- Long Beach Blvd.
- Rush Hour
- South Street at Cherry Avenue
- Downey access
- Downey and South
- All of Artesia Blvd.
- All of Atlantic
- All of LB Blvd.
- All of the corridors
- LB Blvd. and Victoria
- Artesia and Atlantic
- Del Amo and Atlantic
- Long Beach Blvd. at I-405
- Freeway exit from I-405 N to LB Blvd. South
- LB Blvd. and Market
- Artesia and Atlantic
- Del Amo and Atlantic, LB Blvd., Orange, Cherry
- Market and Linden
- South St. and Cherry Ave.
- 91 Freeway and Cherry Ave.
- Del Amo and LB Blvd.
- Market and Atlantic
- LB Blvd. S. from I-710 to Market
- Atlantic and Bixby to Atlantic Pacific coast
- Artesia Boulevard from Atlantic to Downey Avenue
- Orange and Harding to Del Amo
- 405 Northbound Exit at Long Beach Blvd.
- Wardlow/Long Beach Blvd. Intersection
- Pacific/Wardlow Intersection
- Willow/Long Beach Blvd. Intersection
- Willow/Orange Intersection
- Santa Fe/Wardlow Intersection

* More than one respondent had the same response.

- Wardlow and Santa Fe
- Easy Ave. (Between Spring and Wardlow)
- Wardlow at Long Beach Blvd.
- Golden/Willow
- Willow
- Easy Ave.
- Truck Traffic
- Stop lights too long
- Bad traffic flow, timing inadequate
- 710 trucks

Question 10. Are there locations where you have difficulty finding parking when trying to visit a business or residence in your Community Cluster?

- Cota/25th during street sweeping days
- 34th St. West of Santa Fe
- Metro Rail Parking Lot at Wardlow/Pacific
- Atlantic Ave. Business District
- Along 10th
- Santa Fe and 4th
- Cabrillo Ave.
- Oregon/Willow
- 34th/Santa Fe—El Capitan Apartments
- Springdale
- Atlantic between Bixby and San Antonio
- Santa Fe south of PCH
- Atlantic Ave. btwn. Market North to Harding
- Most residential areas where garages are used as living quarters
- LB Blvd. and Market
- Atlantic and South*
- Many residential streets (Platt between LB and Atlantic)
- Market and LB Blvd.
- Linden/56
- Atlantic
- Myrtle Ave. during ball games at Jordan High (weekends especially)
- At most small business on LB and Atlantic
- Pine and 20th
- 3rd between Alamitos to Cherry
- 4th and Orange to Alamitos
- 10th and Orange to 7th and Orange
- 19th and Cedar to 21st and Cedar
- All Post Office Parking is Bad
- Junk Cars on street prevents on-site parking
- No parking problems experienced in North Long Beach
- Residential issue*
- Parking during work-week
- Full on-street parking near businesses in most neighborhoods

* More than one respondent had the same response.

Question 11. Are there residential or commercial streets in your Community Cluster where you feel the traffic volume or speed is too high? Are these local residential streets that are used as short cuts for through traffic? Do you know what causes cut through traffic on these streets (for example—are the drivers trying to avoid congestion at a particular location or a difficult turn at an intersection)?

- Orange Ave. in Cal Heights
- Orange Ave. at Walnut
- Pacific Ave. through Los Cerritos
- San Antonio through Los Cerritos
- Windward Drive—Run Signs
- S.F. and Golden
- Golden—PCH and Willow
- Delta Ave
- Willow and Spring
- Santa Fe to Easy
- 32nd Street
- North on Cherry above I-405
- Willow/Wardlow/PCH
- Carson between Atlantic and Cherry—Speed
- 20th between Pacific and Magnolia
- Hill/Maine—good with light
- Santa Fe/Magnolia/Willow
- I-710/I-405
- Willow exiting I-710—Volume and speed
- Cutting off PCH on Oregon, Golden
- Easy Ave.
- Jaymills connecting to LB Blvd.
- Myrtle south of Artesia
- Atlantic Ave. (speed)
- South St.
- South Street
- Harding St. to avoid Artesia or South
- Atlantic, Orange, etc.
- 53rd St. W. LB Blvd.
- Pacific Ave. between Del Amo and Market
- Atlantic Ave., south of Artesia, Jordan H.S.
- White/Gordon
- Atlantic 91 south to I-405
- LB Blvd. same 91 to I-405
- Frontage road parallel to Atlantic from Del Amo to San Antonio
- 59th St. between Obispo and Downey Ave.—Large trucks cause congestion
- 68th-Artesia-LB Blvd.—91 Freeway congestion causes heavy cut-thru traffic
- LB Blvd.—trucks
- Linden between South and Market no stop signs—bypass for Atlantic and speed
- Myrtle Ave. between Artesia and Harding—Increased traffic
- 52nd St. between LB Blvd. and Atlantic
- 19th and Cedar to the stop sign
- Obispo truck traffic and speed
- Pedestrian traffic on Atlantic—front of Jordan
- Many residential streets—too small, too many parked cars—people in a hurry

* More than one respondent had the same response.

Question 12. Are there streets where you think the walking conditions should be improved? Are there streets or street segments with no sidewalks or sidewalks that are seriously broken or cracked? What types of improvements would you suggest (e.g., better lighting, wider sidewalks, better/safer crosswalks)?

- Pine Ave. South of Willow—Better Lighting
- Santa Fe between Wardlow and Willow—More Crosswalks
- Atlantic Ave.—More Pedestrian Crossings on (Mid-Block Pedestrian Signal) because blocks are so long.
- 34th and Santa Fe—Crosswalk
- Harbor Street—Needs Parking
- 19th and Magnolia—Drug dealing at motels; unsafe to walk
- Wardlow/Spring—No sidewalks
- Pacific and Long Beach Blvd. areas—No sidewalks
- Alleys—Dangerous; prostitution
- Walkways—Too dark
- West side of Atlantic near Jordan—no sidewalks
- Obispo Avenue from 59th to South St.—No sidewalks on one side
- Atlantic Ave.*—Filthy sidewalks, narrow sidewalks
- Coolidge Triangle—Sidewalks in front of homes raised and cracked
- Atlantic north of Del Amo to RR—Overcrossing sidewalk too small
- Pine between 55th and 56th—no sidewalks
- Orange and 52nd—Need wider sidewalks to Del Amo and Orange
- Cherry and Artesia to Cherry and Carson—Better lighting for safety reason
- Sidewalks around all bus stops—Very dirty, food, trash and people stand around LB Blvd. Market.
- Santa Fe
- Handicap Curbs
- PCH and Pedestrians Crossing PCH
- Generally on LB Blvd. and on Atlantic (56th St.-south)
- Downey crosswalks gone
- All residential streets have bad sidewalks that should be replaced
- Sidewalks should be widened on major corridors
- Sidewalks covered with gum and food
- School traffic in front of Jordan
- Pedestrian problems—jaywalking @ Long Beach Blvd. south of Del Amo
- Thoroughfares—signals too fast to safely cross
- Narrow sidewalks in residential areas not troublesome

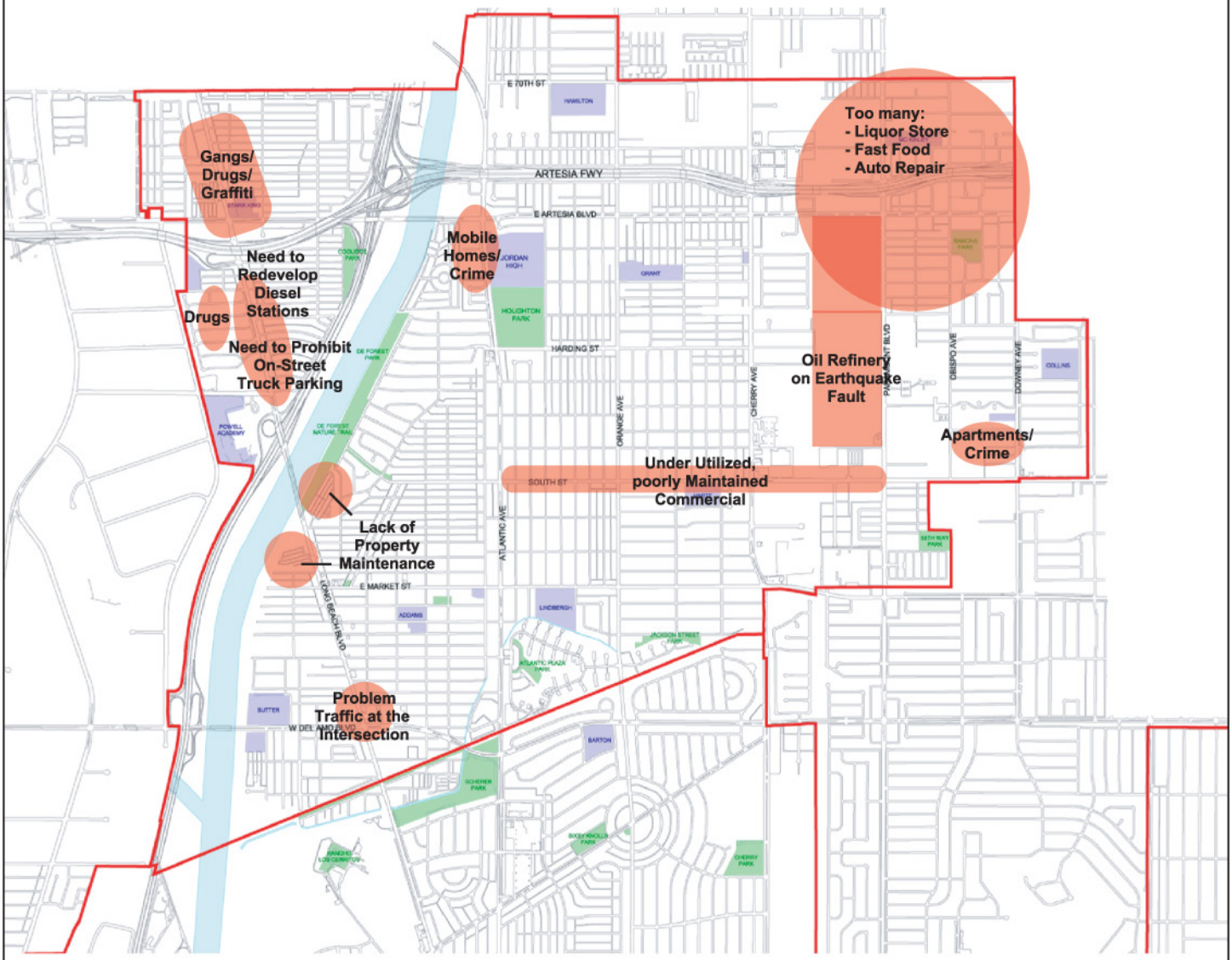
* More than one respondent had the same response.

Question 13. Do you regularly use public transit? (In the discussion, please ask for a show of hands). What would encourage you to use transit more regularly (list a maximum of two factors)? Are there any destinations that you would like to be able to reach by public transit that you cannot now reach by transit? Is the transit service adequate in your neighborhood or Community Cluster?

- Use public transit*
- Do not use on regular basis*
- Use Blue Line to downtown LA
- Neighborhood needs to be more pedestrian-friendly for transit users.
- Too many bus stops on Atlantic in Bixby Knolls—stops are too close together
- Not Enough Seating
- Cost
- Time
- Access to Blue Line
- Quick way to Downtown/ Pike area
- Appealing destinations to riders*
- Better connections
- More buses running every 15 minutes to each stop
- More runs to more places
- Lose license or ability to drive
- Lose car
- Need multiple transfers—too much time
- East/west transit times are lacking
- No direct routes from residence
- Senior friendly dial-a-ride
- Costa Mesa link desired
- Clark and Pacific Coast
- Artesia and Orange to Long Beach Boulevard and Artesia

Exhibits 2.1-1, 2.1-2, and 2.1-3 show the collective input from the Community Cluster Committee as to the location of the assets, problems/issues and areas of future development.

* More than one respondent had the same response.



Cluster Wide
- Need more East - West Bus Routes

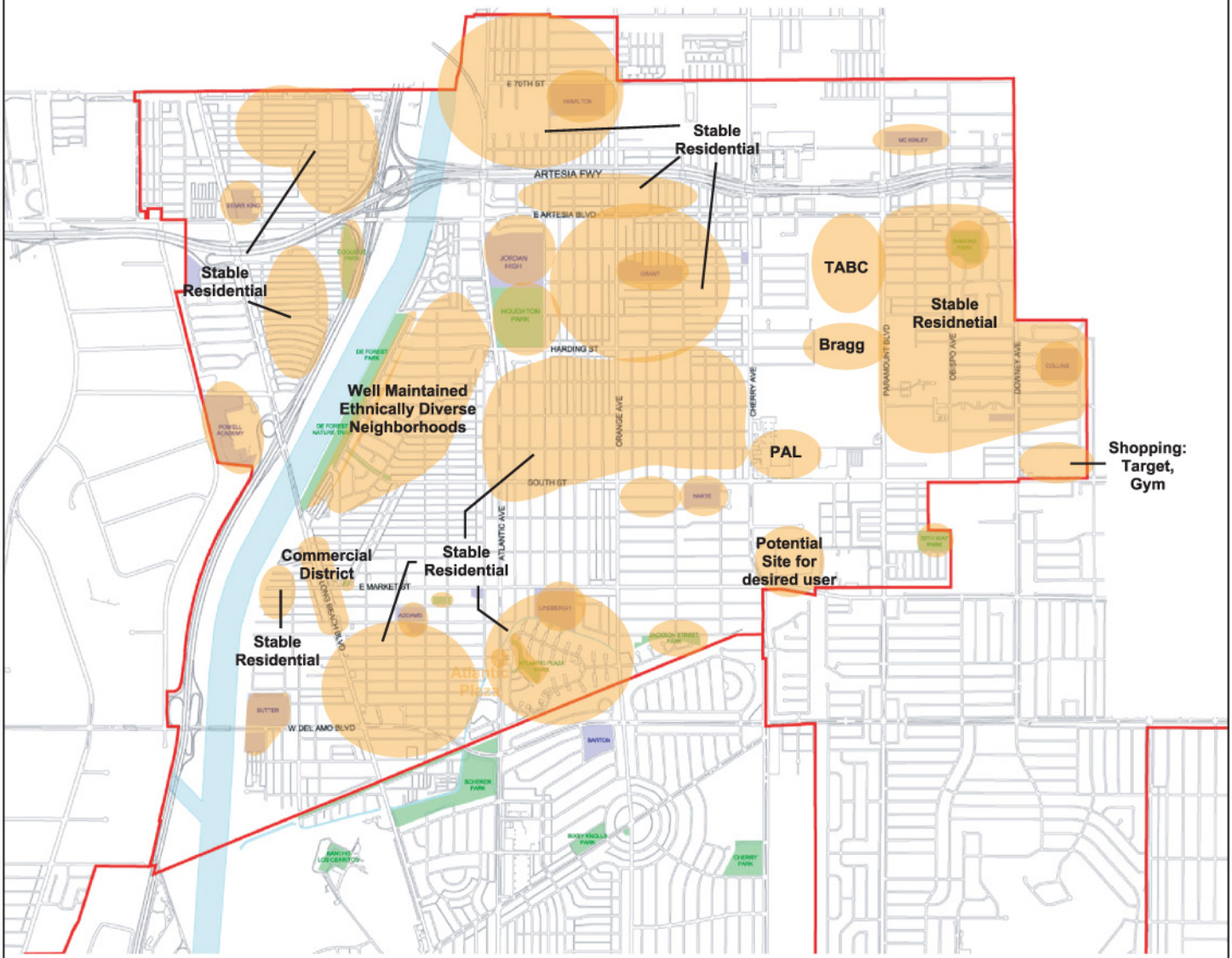
NORTH NOT TO SCALE

LONG BEACH GENERAL PLAN UPDATE
CLUSTER 1: NORTH

SOURCE: City of Long Beach

EXHIBIT 2.1-1

Problems/Issues



Cluster Wide
- Most neighborhoods off the corridors are assets
- Blue line connectivity
- Bike path along river

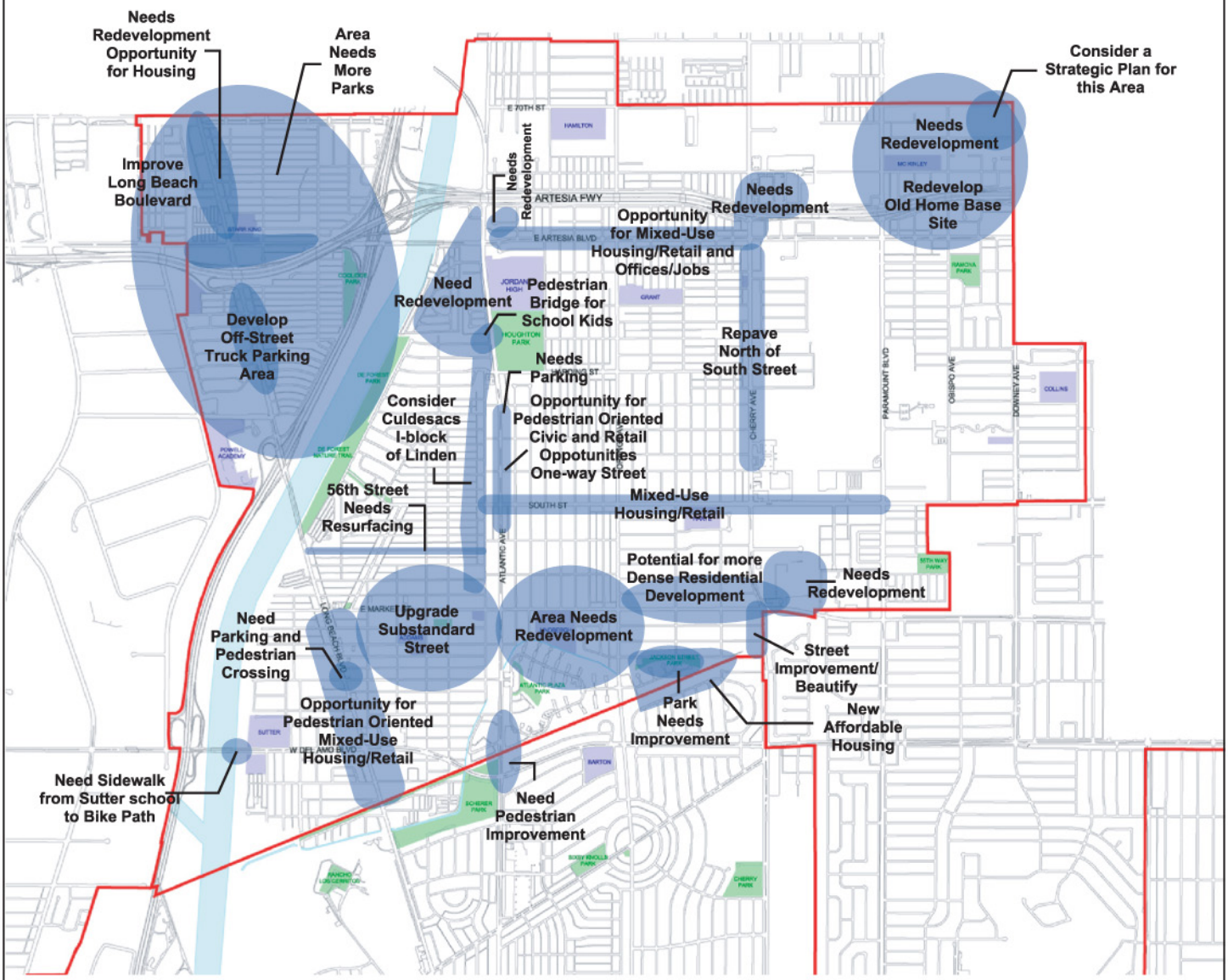
NORTH | NOT TO SCALE

LONG BEACH GENERAL PLAN UPDATE
CLUSTER 1: NORTH

SOURCE: City of Long Beach

EXHIBIT 2.1-2

Assets



Cluster Wide
- Bike path underutilized
- Create an "Adopt a Block program for businesses or PBID

NORTH | NOT TO SCALE

LONG BEACH GENERAL PLAN UPDATE
CLUSTER 1: NORTH

SOURCE: City of Long Beach

EXHIBIT 2.1-3

Areas for Future Development